



APR 3 676

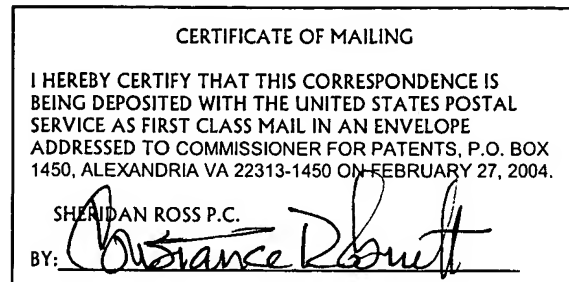
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/027,721
Applicant : Katagiri et al.
Filed : 20 December 2001
TC/A.U. : 3676
Examiner : John B. Walsh

Confirmation No. 9785

Docket No. : 2933KA-5
Customer No. : 22442

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450



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MAR - 5 2004

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT

Sir,

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed 9 January 2004 (Paper No. 11). This response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period. Applicants therefore believe this response is timely filed and no fees are due. In the event any fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: